

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GENERAL ORDER



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Distribution: All Personnel	Review Month: January	Reviewing Authority: OSB / HRIC
Subject: High Risk Incidents		

This order consists of the following:

1. Purpose
2. Policy
3. Definitions
4. Procedures

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for an appropriate agency response when high risk incidents occur within Orange County through the use of specially trained employees.

2. **Policy**

The agency has established specialty units to provide appropriate responses to high risk incidents. High risk incidents will be coordinated by a command staff member who has the authority and responsibility to direct the incident.

3. **Definitions**

- A. Command Post - designated location for command persons during an incident.
- B. Critical Incident Management Guide ([CIMG](#)) – an agency guide to manage emergency situations.
- C. Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) – an agency unit designated to facilitate critical incident command post and emergency operation center functions. It is to also confirm that the concepts and tasks of the Incident Command System, as outlined in agency policy and the ICS Administrator's Manual, are followed and to assist the Incident Commander as needed to resolve the incident.
- D. Emergency Response Team (ERT) - an agency unit designated to handle crowd control operations.
- E. Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) - an agency unit designated to handle situations involving the use of explosive devices.
- F. High Risk Incident Commander (HRIC) - command staff member designated by the Sheriff who is responsible for on scene control of high risk incidents.
- G. High Risk Incidents - incidents that require a response over and above the normal patrol response (e.g., hostage situations, armed/barricaded situations, terrorist

situations, on-going situations involving armed perpetrators, civil disorder, natural disasters).

- H. Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) - an agency unit designated to handle situations requiring the use of persons trained in the negotiations process.
- I. Inner Perimeter - smallest possible area within which suspect/s are isolated during a high risk incident. This perimeter is usually the responsibility of SWAT.
- J. Outer Perimeter - outside area of a high risk incident which is a patrol responsibility.
- K. Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) - an agency unit designated to handle special situations requiring specialized weapons or extraordinary tactical operations.
- L. Tactical Operations Center (TOC) - a special unit command post which may be in addition to the Incident Command Post.
- M. Uniform Patrol Division (UPD) - an agency division that includes patrol.

4. **Procedures**

- A. High Risk Incident Commander (HRIC)
 - 1. Appointment
 - a. The HRIC is designated by the Sheriff.
 - b. The Sheriff shall appoint alternate HRIC's to be in charge in the event of the absence of the HRIC.
 - 2. The HRIC shall:
 - a. Command, control, and confirm response planning for all high risk incidents. The HRIC shall be responsible for coordinating the plan with all affected agencies.
 - b. Command the SWAT Team, HNT, ERT, HRIC Intelligence Team, and CIMT Commanders while on the scene of high risk incidents.
 - c. Coordinate with the Sector Commander or Watch Commander of the Sector in which the incident occurs.
 - d. Confirm a command post has been established.
 - e. Notify the Sheriff and/or Undersheriff of the status of the incident.
 - f. Confirm supporting resources have been notified.
 - g. Maintain command of, and responsibility for high risk incidents until:
 - 1. The incident is resolved.
 - 2. Is relieved from the scene by his/her relief.
 - 3. Is relieved from the scene by his/her superior.
 - h. Liaison with emergency management authorities.
 - i. Liaison with other law enforcement agencies.
 - j. Annually review all agency special operations plans and update as necessary.
 - 3. Authority
 - a. The HRIC is authorized by the Sheriff to utilize whatever legal actions or agency resources are necessary to resolve incident(s).
 - b. The HRIC is authorized by the Sheriff to deploy chemical weapons as necessary.

- c. The HRIC may elect not to respond to the following situations:
 - 1. SWAT service of search warrants.
 - 2. On-going surveillance situations.
 - 3. Situations involving the use of the HNT but not SWAT.
 - 4. If the HRIC is not present, the senior ranking deputy on the scene is in charge of the incident.
- d. The HRIC is authorized by the Sheriff to respond in an emergency mode to high risk incidents as necessary. The HRIC may direct units responding to an incident to respond in an emergency mode.

B. Specialty Teams Responsibilities

- 1. Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)
 - a. SWAT will assist agency personnel and outside agencies during high risk incidents.
 - b. SWAT response situations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Barricaded Subjects
 - 2. Sniper Incidents
 - 3. Hostage Situations
 - 4. Special Security Situations
 - 5. Search and Arrest Warrants
 - 6. Hijack Situations (e.g., aircraft, etc.)
 - 7. Other situations of a high risk nature in which specialized response would be beneficial.
 - c. The SWAT Commander shall be appointed by the Sheriff.
- 2. Emergency Response Team (ERT)
 - a. The ERT provides a rapid, organized and disciplined response of specially trained deputies to situations that require the coordinated efforts of large numbers of agency personnel.
 - b. Response situations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Civil Disorders
 - 2. Crowd Control Situations
 - 3. Other situations of a tactical nature
 - 4. Missing person or investigative grid searches
 - c. The ERT Commander shall be appointed by the Sheriff.
 - d. Two teams will be on-call each month.
 - 1. During the on-call period, full individually assigned vehicle privileges are authorized in accordance with Vehicle Operation GO [9.1.5](#).
 - 2. On-call teams will rotate every month.
- 3. Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)
 - a. The HNT has been established to resolve crisis situations through the use of verbal negotiations.
 - b. Response situations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Situations where a suspect is armed and refuses to surrender, including criminal, suicidal and mentally unstable subjects.
 - 2. Any barricaded criminal suspect who refuses to surrender.
 - 3. Other situations in which specialized response would be beneficial.

- c. The HNT Commander shall be appointed by the Sheriff.
- 4. Hazardous Devices Team (HDT)
 - a. Provide assistance to agency personnel and outside agencies with suspected explosive devices.
 - b. Provide for proper and safe transportation, disposal and/or storage of explosives.
 - c. Provide technical support to special operations.
 - d. Provide dignitary protection.
 - e. Response situations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. To render safe and/or remove suspected devices.
 - 2. Assist persons and homicide detectives with post bomb crime scene investigations.
 - 3. Crime scene investigators shall assist HDT members with post bomb crime scenes when requested.
 - f. The HDT Commander shall be appointed by the Sheriff.
- 5. Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT)
 - a. CIMT will facilitate the command post and emergency operations center for the HRIC or Watch Commander when requested.
 - b. CIMT will maintain and operate the mobile command post vehicle and the agency EOC.
 - c. Fulfill the liaison officer function.
 - d. Facilitate requests of the Incident Commander.
 - e. Conduct planning functions to include maintaining logs, maps, and resource tracking.
 - f. Conduct logistic functions in support of the operations.
 - g. Facilitate procurement and tracking of expenditures as applicable.
- C. Call-Out Procedures
 - 1. A call-out must be requested by a Lieutenant or above.
 - 2. A call-out will be approved by the HRIC.
 - a. In the event of an ongoing emergency situation, Specialty Teams may respond when called without the approval of the HRIC at the request of the on-scene incident commander.
 - b. The HRIC shall be notified of the specialty team response as soon as possible.
 - 3. When called out, personnel shall adhere to the following procedures:
 - Communications
 - a. The radio zone for the sector in which the incident is located will be used.
 - b. Patrol personnel involved in the incident and the command post shall operate on the TAC talk group.
 - c. Specialty units shall go to talk groups as indicated in GO [11.1.2](#) (Communications) and should note that these channels are not monitored by a dispatcher. Supervisors are responsible for their personnel on these unmonitored talk groups.

D. Incident Management

1. The on-scene Incident Commander shall refer to the agency Critical Incident Management Guide ([CIMG](#)) and complete the 7 Critical Tasks at a level commensurate with the incident circumstances. The 7 Critical Tasks are:
 - a. Assess the situation
 - b. Identify the danger zone
 - c. Establish inner perimeter
 - d. Establish outer perimeter
 - e. Establish incident command post
 - f. Establish a staging area
 - g. Request additional resources
2. The on-scene Incident Commander shall refer to any applicable Critical Incident Checklist on the [CIMG](#).
3. Evacuation of injured persons will be accomplished as soon as possible. Consideration will be given to the safety of all persons involved in the treatment, removal, and transport of injured persons in order to reduce unnecessary risk.
4. Evacuation of civilians from the inner perimeter will be accomplished as soon as possible. Persons evacuated from homes and/or businesses shall be given the opportunity to remain in a common designated staging area outside the perimeter to facilitate the efforts of anyone attempting to locate them. The PIO shall be advised by the HRIC of the location of the staging area for evacuated civilians.
5. Orange County Fire Rescue Division shall be contacted by Communications personnel to stand by with rescue equipment during the operation.
6. Upon arrival, the HRIC shall relieve the Incident Commander and take command.

E. Specialty Team Response Procedures

1. The commander of the requested teams shall set up a Tactical Operations Center.
2. HRIC Intelligence Officers shall respond to all call-outs unless directed otherwise by the HRIC.
3. Suspect(s) must be contained within the inner perimeter established by Patrol or the requesting entity.
4. Inner perimeter position held by Patrol personnel will be relieved as soon as practical.
5. No one but specialty team personnel or the HRIC shall be permitted into the inner perimeter.
6. The outer perimeter will be made secure from vehicular and/or pedestrian

traffic unless otherwise directed by the HRIC.

7. Patrol personnel shall be responsible for all pursuit and surveillance vehicles and shall control all travel routes.
8. The news media shall be permitted entry into the outer perimeter only with the approval of the HRIC.
9. Existence of probable cause, validity of warrants, correct locations, legality of law enforcement intervention, etc., is the responsibility of the requesting entity.

Specialty teams are not investigative units and their presence does not relieve the requesting entity of its responsibilities.

10. Chemical agents may be utilized to neutralize a threat or force out a barricaded subject or in crowd control incidents. The use of chemical agents must be authorized by the HRIC unless exigent circumstances exist. Under exigent circumstances, the SWAT or ERT commander may authorize the use of chemical agents. When chemical agents are deployed, the HRIC shall be notified as soon as possible.
11. Diversionary devices may be utilized if deemed necessary by the SWAT or ERT Commander or the HRIC.
12. Any communications with other agencies will be accomplished as necessary but with the approval of the HRIC.
13. Once the specialty team has secured a location, the scene, subjects, etc., will be turned over to the requesting entity.
14. An after-action report will be prepared at the conclusion of each specialty team call-out, as defined in their special orders.

F. Other Agency Assists

Requests from other agencies will be authorized as follows:

1. An initial request will be made to the HRIC. An exception is a request for service of a search or arrest warrant. For warrant service, the SWAT Commander may authorize the use of SWAT but must notify the HRIC.
2. When authorized by the HRIC, specialty team response is permitted. However, the Orange County Sheriff's Office retains supervision over agency personnel.
3. Specialty team personnel shall adhere to the operational conditions of mutual aid agreements.
4. The HRIC shall respond to all other agency requests to verify appropriate control and use of specialty teams. The HRIC may delegate the command of specialty team response to the respective team commander.

- G. Specialty team commanders are appointed by the Sheriff.
- H. Members of SWAT, ERT, HNT, CIMT, and HDT are volunteers serving at the discretion of the respective command officers.